External Affairs works out to 282 (both India-based and local employees).

(b) All our Missions/Posts abroad, perform a wide range of functions in political, economic, commercial, consular, cultural, information, science & technology and other spheres with a view to promoting and safeguarding, India's overall national interest. This also applies to India's Missions/Posts in the erstwhile Soviet Union.

(c) India has signed a wide range of bilateral agreements with the countries of the former Soviet Union with a view to further strengthening the overall bilateral ties. Treaties of Friendship and Cooperation have been signed with the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Armenia.

New Strategy to be Indian Missions to Lure Foreign Investments

180. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the new strategy to be pursued by our Indian Missions abroad for attracting foreign investments as Match makers to focus on identified core sectors, as reported in The Hindu dated 9th June, 1997, under the caption "new strategy to lure foreign investment";

(b) the details of the framework and the module to develop trade and economic linkages; and

(c) in what way the new strategy is likely to be an improvement in the existing framework to secure direct foreign investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) The experience of only a small percentage of approved foreign investment proposals transforming into actual investments has been attracting the attention of this Ministry also. It has been felt that approved foreign investment proposals need post approval monitoring. Ministry of External Affairs is working towards this objective through our Missions abroad who play a key role in keeping in touch with the foreign investors and facilitating implementation of their approved proposals through various stages. The Missions also act as 'match makers' where possible or necessary.

(b) Our Missions abroad have been taking increasing interest in promoting trade and economic relations. There is special focus on developing trade links with countries in SAARC, South-East Asia, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, the Gulf, Africa and Latin America. In the field of foreign investments, an "escort service" is proposed to be provided through the apex chambers to major investors.

(c) Due to a liberalized economic environment in India there is ample interest on the part of foreign business houses to invest in India as evidenced by the number of applications and approvals. however, actual investment inflows are not yet to levels the Government would like to have. This is mainly due to unfamiliarity of procedures on the part of investors. Our effort is to ease this problem so that the foreign investor who is ready to invest does not shy away and is informed and guided properly till the actual implementation of the project.

Ratification of Chemical Weapons Convention

181. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) without Pakistan having done so;

(b) if so, the reasons for India's fretting away too much too soon at CWC;

(c) in what manner India would retain its security options and not surrender its deterrent security options at any stage; and

(d) whether Government would ensure Parliament that there would not be any

compromise on national security, at any cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes Sir. India retified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on 3rd September, 1996. The CWC has entered into force on 29th April, 1997. Pakistan is a signatory to the CWC but has yet to complete its ratification proceedings.

(b) India considers the CWC as a model disarmament agreement and has consistently remained committed to its objectives. India has also called on all countries that have not yet done so to complete their ratification proceedings in order to make the CWC a genuinely universal and comprehensive disarmament agreement.

(c) and (d) Government's decision has been taken while ensuring that adequate safeguards for India's security and national interest against all eventualities are fully maintained.

US Senator's Observation on supply of F-16s to Pakistan

182. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to U.S. Senator, Larry Pressler's Observation reported in the Hindustan Times dated 27th June, 1997 captioned "F-16 Supply to Pak will be big mistake by the United States when Indo-Pak crucial dialogue to resolve outstanding issues are going on;" and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto and what steps they have taken so far to prevail upon the U.S. not to lift the embargo on supply of F-16s to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Government are aware of the news report in the Hindustan Times of June 27, 1997 on remarks attributed to former US senator Larry Pressler, made during his visit to India at the time.

(b) Government remain alert to all developments having a bearing on India's security. Government have, on numerous occasions, conveyed to the US Government, India's reservations to any proposed supply of advanced military equipment by the US to Pakistan. The US Administration, as also the Congress, are aware of India's views on this matter that it would impact adversely on peace, security and stability in the region. US officials have assured Government of India that the US does not seek to resume its military arms supply relationship with Pakistan. Government remain committed to take all steps necessary to safeguard national security.

Extradition of Dawood Ibrahim

183. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of efforts made by Ministry of External Affairs in seeking extradition of Mafia don Dawood Ibrahim, the main accused in Mumbai Bomb blast case, since the incident;

(b) what has been the response of different quarters addressed by the Ministry, particularly of the UAE Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have approached International Court of Justice in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the other options explored or contemplated to be explored to extradite Dawood Ibrahim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) A request for extradition of Dawood Ibrahim was made to the Government of UAE and Pakistan in April, 1994. The Government of Pakistan's reply is that Dawood Ibrahim is not in Pakistan. Since then the Government has been constantly requesting the UAE authorities to extra-